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92+ 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON | STILLWATER CREEK VINEYARD

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Stillwater Creek Vineyard (100%) spent 20 months in 50% new French oak. A glass-coating opaque purple color, it offers up an exceptional bouquet of sandalwood, rose petal, spice box, incense, black currant, and blackberry. Elegant on the palate with a St.-Julien-like personality, this beautifully proportioned Cabernet will benefit from 3-4 years of additional cellaring and offers a drinking window extending from 2013 to 2024+. It's just a feeling but when this wine achieves its apogee, I suspect my score is going to look conservative.

92 2010 CHARDONNAY | CONNER LEE VINEYARD

Van Löben Sels Cellars' 2010 Chardonnay Conner Lee Vineyard, sourced from one of Washington's finest sites for this varietal, was barrel-fermented and aged in 50% new French oak. Toasty notes of buttered popcorn, pear, spiced apple, and hazelnuts inform the nose of an elegantly-styled, medium-bodied, concentrated, vibrant Chardonnay that is likely to evolve for 1-2 years and drink well through 2018. It is an outstanding value.

